Doubutsu No Oishasan

by SASAKI Noriko

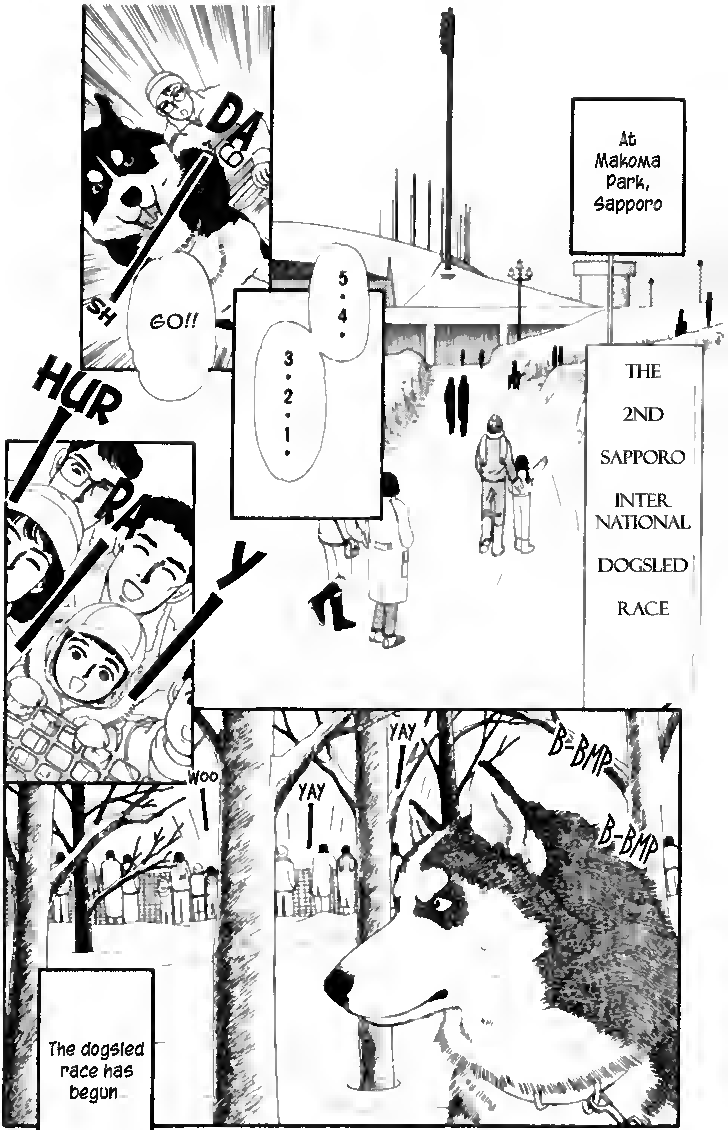
A Joint Project of
Papermeans Scans and WingtipCafe

Translator : Chihaya
Proofreader : Cyber_3
Cleaner : Bakeneko
Typesetter : Chihaya

動物(どうぶつ)のお医者(いしゃ)さん

Kamuteru who was hand-picked by Mr. Butcher, has trained hard for the coming dogsled race.

And now the deciding day has arrived.


At Makoma Park, Sapporo
THE 2ND SAPPORO INTER NATIONAL DOGSLED RACE
5・4・3・2・1・
DA
SH
GO!!
HURRY
WOO
YAY
YAY
B-BMP
B-BMP
The dogsled race has begun

Chobi will participate in the team category (Open) on the second day
STAY COOL, CHOBI
D-BMP D-BMP
JUST KEEP UP WITH CAESAR AND YOU'LL BE FINE
THREE-DOG RACE
OPEN
UNLIKE CAESAR HE'S CALM AND COLLECTED, AS EXPECTED OF A LEADER
CHOBI IS NER-VOUS?
WHAT A CHICKEN-HEARTED DOG
IT'S CALLED "SENSI-TIVE"
Woof Woof Woof
CAESAR

IT'S PROBABLY HIS RELAXING RITUALS
HOW IS THAT CALM AND COLLECTED ?
You're annoying.
DIG DIG DIG DIG
AH WROO!
DIG DIG DIG DIG
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HAMU-TERU? NER-VOUS?
Yeah,
BUT IT'S PRESSURE ON ME AS WELL
RIGHT YOU WERE HAND-PICKED BY MR. BUTCHER BE PROUD, MAN
He saw your potential
I DID EVERY-THING MR BUTCHER RECOM-MENDED
ALL I CAN DO NOW IS HAVE FAITH IN MY TEAM
HERE WE GO, CAESAR
MR. BUTCHER
He is in the Single-Dog Race and the Six-Dog Race.

CAESAR IS ACTUALLY PRETTY AWESOME, ISN'T HE? EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALWAYS COMPLAINING AND HOT-HEADED
4・3・2・1
GO!
with Caesar as the team leader
HE WON THE SIX-DOG RACE FINALS YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
YEAH, HIS TIME WAS THE BEST IN THE SINGLES' QUALIFYING ROUND TOO. HE'S THE FAVORITE TO WIN
DASH
SINGLE-DOG RACE
HE SEEMS SLOWER THAN YESTERDAY
AT THIS RATE, HE WON'T EVEN BE IN THE TOP THREE
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, CAESAR?

THAT'S PART OF IT, BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE CAESAR DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO SAVE HIS ENERGY
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM TOO EARLY BEFORE THE RACE
WHAT? FROM RUNNING 200 METER?
AN AFTER-EFFECT FROM YESTER-DAY, RIGHT?
86
pant pant
HE'S EX-HAUST-ED
Caesar loves crowds and is very social by nature. A busy place tends to over-excite him.
HUFF HUFF
I'm tired
EVEN MR BUTCHER SOME-TIMES MAKES MIS-TAKES
I MIS-CALCU-LATED
UNBELIEV-ABLE
YOU'RE SO HYPER
SILLY DOG!
CAE-SAR
As a result, he wasted half of his energy while he waited.
WOOF
WOOF
But I won't let that stop me.

NOW WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IN THE TEAM CATE-GORY?
Hamuteru and Nikaidou believe he's been a long-timed veteran in this sport.
Mr. Butcher is a highly-skilled Musher who won the Single-Dog race last year.
CUBEE CUP
TOP DOG CLASS
1990
YET HE MADE SUCH A ROOKIE MISTAKE
He rarely talks about himself but people speculate that he came from Alaska, the motherland of dog sledding.
CAESAR IS TO BE THE LEADER
THAT'S RIGHT!
AHH
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
.....
SHE'S AS USUAL
HOW IS CHOBI DOING?

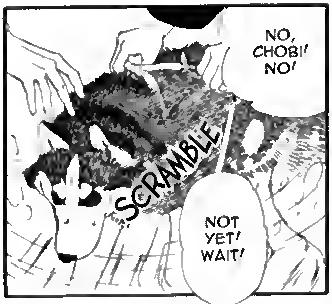
But her mental energy is pretty low
NOW THAT'S SOMEONE WHO EXCELS IN SAVING HER ENERGY
WELL
ALRIGHT, WE'LL HAVE CHOBI AND CAESAR SWITCH PLACES. CHOBI WILL LEAD.
Eh?
Eh?
Why am I in the front?
This is not the same as usual.

Chobi may be more diligent and follow the musher to the Ts but Caesar is more vivacious and vigorous.

Afterwards, it was decided that Caesar was the most suitable as the leader.

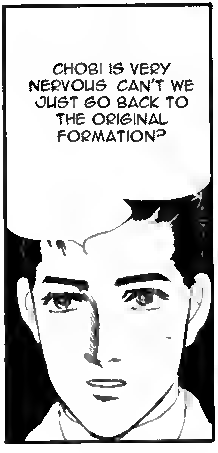
And an energetic leader works wonders for the team's spirit.

Chobi is more fit as a second-in-command.


NO, CHOBI! NO!
SCRAMBLE
NOT YET! WAIT!

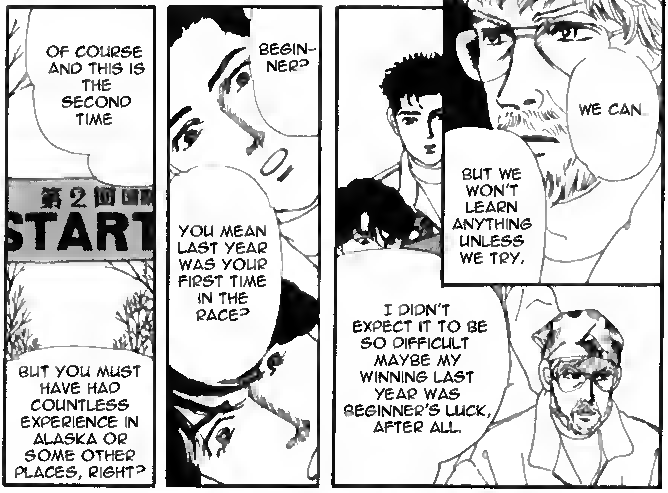
5...
4...
3...
2...
1...
RUSH
GO!!
AH

Oh...
IT WAS THE SIGNAL FOR THE TEAM BEFORE THEM.

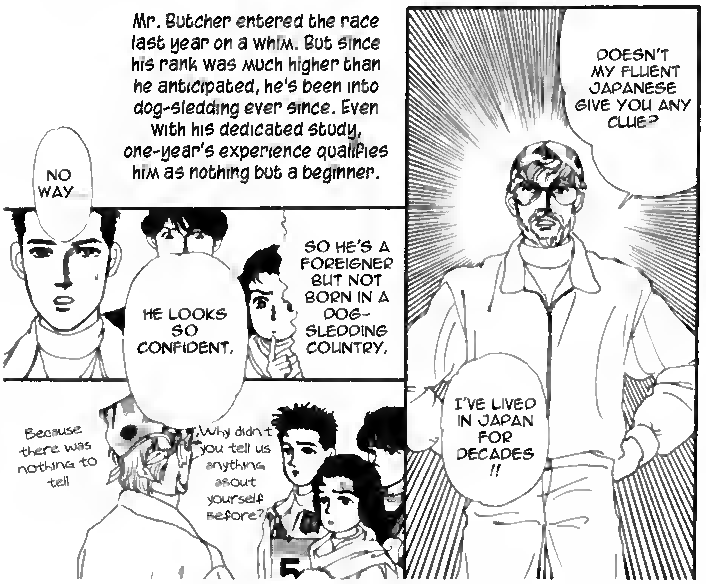

CHOBI IS VERY NERVOUS CAN'T WE JUST GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL FORMATION?

5
MR BUTCHER?

AA
AA
AA
AA
GAH!
IT'S OKAY JUST GO AT IT HARD LIKE THAT WHEN YOUR TURN COMES


OF COURSE AND THIS IS THE SECOND TIME
第2回目
START
BUT YOU MUST HAVE HAD COUNTLESS EXPERIENCE IN ALASKA OR SOME OTHER PLACES, RIGHT?
BEGIN-NER?
YOU MEAN LAST YEAR WAS YOUR FIRST TIME IN THE RACE?
WE CAN.
BUT WE WON'T LEARN ANYTHING UNLESS WE TRY.
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO DIFFICULT MAYBE MY WINNING LAST YEAR WAS BEGINNER'S LUCK, AFTER ALL.

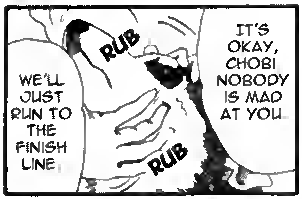
Mr. Butcher entered the race last year on a whim. But since his rank was much higher than he anticipated, he's been into dog-sledding ever since. Even with his dedicated study, one-year's experience qualifies him as nothing but a beginner.

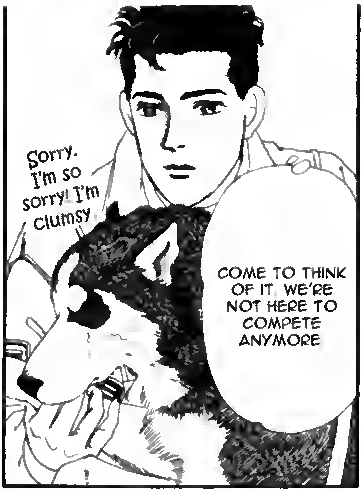

NO WAY
HE LOOKS SO CONFIDENT.
SO HE'S A FOREIGNER BUT NOT BORN IN A DOG-SLEDDING COUNTRY.
DOESN'T MY FLUENT JAPANESE GIVE YOU ANY CLUE?
I'VE LIVED IN JAPAN FOR DECADES !!
Why didn't you tell us anything about yourself before?
Because there was nothing to tell

OH!
TUMBLE TUMBLE
But a musher can't afford to let his team know of his worries
RELAX, CHOBI. WE'LL JUST LOOK AT THE TEAM BEFORE US AS AN EXAMPLE
RIGHT I'M NOT THE ONE HAND-PICKED BY A PROFESSIONAL, JUST A PASSERBY HE EXPERIMENTED ON
ANYWAY, LET'S TRY HAVE CHOBI AS A LEADER FOR THIS TIME
Hamuteru blanches at this. His only pillar of confidence has now crumbled down.
FORFEIT -ED FORFEIT -ED
GULP
NEXT TEAM, PLEASE
WELL, LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN
OKAY, CHOBI?
Its so far

DASH
GO!!
5
CHEERS
CHEERS
5.4.3.
2.1.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO RUN NORMALLY WITH ALL THIS CRAZY CHEERING AND SHOUTING.
DO YOUR BEST, CHOBI!
ALRIGHT!
LET'S GO!
YAY!
Is this direction correct?
Am I doing it right?
CHOBI!!
RU
SH
.....

THUD
YES! YOU'RE DOING FINE! RUN STRAIGHT! DON'T KEEP LOOKING BACK!
THE REINS WILL SLACKEN AND...
trip
ACK!
HEY, GET UP.
ONCE THE RACE STARTS, IT'S THE MUSHER'S JOB ALONE TO HELP HIS DOGS UP AND UNTANGLE EVERYTHING
Oh no!
The leader fell!
Ah!
Ouch!
Yelp!
ACK!... A DISASTER!
WE CAN SAY GOOD-BYE TO WINNING NOW
Hamuteru, it's not the time to ponder!


RUB
RUB
WE'LL JUST RUN TO THE FINISH LINE
IT'S OKAY, CHOBI NOBODY IS MAD AT YOU


Sorry. I'm so sorry! I'm clumsy
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'RE NOT HERE TO COMPETE ANYMORE

I'm doing it
EVERY ONE, LET'S DO IT

is more focused by Caesar's encouragement.
PANT
PANT
PANT

If you fumble the rein again, I'm going to run past you

Even the nervous-prone Chobi
RUSH

Forgetting all his worries and pressures, Hamuteru urges his team on
GO!!

5
GREAT! WE'VE ESCAPED THE SPECTA-TORS!

CHOBI, JUST FORGET IT'S A RACE
RUSH
NOW RUN LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO. GO FOR IT, EVERYONE
5
RUSH
RUSH
THIS IS THE ROAD IN THE CEMETERY
HUFF
HUFF
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE END OF OUR PRACTICE
CHEERS
CHEERS
FINISH
5
THAT'S THE CEMETERY'S DOOR WITH CANON'S STATUE

RUSH
GOOD JOB, GOOD JOB!
FINISH
RUSH
CHOBI, ENOUGH IT'S THE FINISH LINE.
Not yet! Not yet!
THEY RAN 4 KM MORE IN THE PRACTICE.
NOT BAD
YEAH, BUT...
FIFTH PLACE, HUH?

BUT CHOBI WAS REALLY FAST WHEN SHE SPRINTED THROUGH THE FINISH LINE. SHE EVEN DRAGGED CAESAR
Hey the actual race is only 2-km long.
WE'D HAVE DONE BETTER IF THE RACE WAS 4 KM LONGER
What a pity
I'LL NOT LET CAESAR LOSE HIS ENERGY BEFORE THE RACE AGAIN.
YEAH, NEXT YEAR WE WILL BE...
THE CHAMP!
And so, more amateur dogsled fans are born.